

pollen over itself. If the female wasp then enters a female syconium to lay its eggs in the neuter flowers, it pollinates the female flowers in the process. Some of the hidden relationships include those of the nitrogen fixing bacteria and the mycorrhizae. The final chapter dealing with plant evolution is a romp through geologic time and presents an excellent overview.

The book provides hours and hours of entertainment and is highly recommended. It is ideal for those with little or no background in plant biology and would provide a wonderful and instructive resource for teachers and their students. It is also ideal

for the armchair traveller, but beware, the armchair may be traded in for a ticket to any one of the fantastic places illustrated. Bye now, I'm off to see how anything can grow at Coyote Buttes near the Arizona-Utah border.

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Forgotten Flora Resource Kit

by J Milne, T Lebel, A Veenstra-Quah and G Shadforth

Publisher: *Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Australia, 2004. 3 CD-R and 10 posters, ISBN 0975136232. RRP \$154.00*

Forgotten Flora is aptly named. Indeed, bryophytes, fungi and lichens (fungi with one or two algal symbionts) have been overlooked by scientists and the public alike, yet they are vital to the ecology and health of all terrestrial habitats and most aquatic habitats. The resource kit consists of three CDs and ten posters. It is aimed primarily at teachers and is presented at a level such that those untrained in plant biology or mycology can understand and successfully use the information presented. The authors aimed to promote increased awareness of the Forgotten Flora, educate people about their importance to the environment, and show their beauty. They have done this admirably, and producing the kit for teachers of older primary and secondary school children ensures a future generation with a better understanding and appreciation of these small but exceedingly important organisms.

The CDs are presented much like a text book but are partially interactive. Hopefully, the next edition will be fully

interactive. Each CD includes a brief introduction to the groups of organisms comprising the forgotten flora, and explains the existence of the other two CDs and the ten posters. The 'Educators Note' explains how the information in the kit can be incorporated into the Key Learning Areas of the Curriculum and Standards Framework for Biological Science. Following the general introduction, which is specific to the group of organisms pertinent to the CD in question, there are five sections which provide detail on the relevant group of organisms, their interactions, how to study them, a list of activities and associated worksheets and a bibliography and glossary. These are accompanied by superb photographs and drawings. The activities, which would be of great benefit to teachers, include making spore prints of fungi, using fungi to make ink, looking at what lives in the fruiting structures of fungi, graveyard lichens, finding out whether lichens are 'fussy', using lichens as bioindicators of pollution, finding out



why mosses have teeth and making a moss terrarium. Wordfinds, crosswords and a list of possible projects also are provided. The activities and worksheets sections begin with 'Fascinating Facts' presented as answers to a series of questions, for example: What have mosses got to do with the Tyrolean man? What are the green umbrellas growing with my pot plants? Each activity comes with a complete set of instructions and includes a list of materials so that the inexperienced teacher/technician easily can prepare and/or run the activity.

Although the bibliography provides a useful list of story books, general text books, field guides and keys, it would be more helpful if it was annotated to indicate the level of expertise required to use the item. For example, the key to the genera of Australian mosses by Buck *et al.* requires a good knowledge of bryology and associated terms while the field guide to mosses and allied plants by Meagher and Fuhrer can be used by both experienced and inexperienced bryologists.

Production of the CDs seems to have been rushed, indicated by the number of typographical errors, the admission that the CDs were only partially interactive and the occasional repetition of information in some sections. The posters, however, are excellent. They are visually pleasing, clearly presented and would be informative displays for primary, secondary and tertiary

students. They also would be excellent for public displays and are ideal to educate the public on the ecologic significance of the *Forgotten Flora*. The posters centre around particular themes such as 'taking a liking to lichens' or 'Poisonous mushrooms', and provide answers to intriguing questions, for example, what mushrooms caused symptoms displayed by 'witches' in the 17th century and what are the little cups growing in the carpet of my car?

Limited resources dealing with bryophytes, fungi and lichens are available to teachers and the general public. *Forgotten Flora* successfully fills that void and is a valuable addition to any classroom. The authors are commended for their initiative and imagination and the resource kit is certain to fulfill their aim of increasing awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the forgotten flora. The CDs and posters are highly recommended for anyone with an interest in these frequently overlooked organisms but particularly to teachers.

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